



September 2005

COMPREHENSIVE AIDS RESOURCES EMERGENCY/HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUM PAYMENT (CARE/HIPP)

What we do:

The Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act of 1990 established as a federal program the Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) program. CARE/HIPP, located within the California Department of Health Services, Office of AIDS (OA), AIDS Drug Assistance Program Section, pays health insurance premiums on behalf of people disabled because of HIV and are at risk of losing their health insurance coverage.

Who we serve:

Individuals are eligible for CARE/HIPP if they:

- are a resident of California;
- are disabled by HIV/AIDS;
- have assets less than \$6,000;
- have income less than 400 percent of federal poverty level; and
- have a monthly insurance premium less than \$500.

What you should know:

CARE/HIPP utilizes approximately 153 enrollment sites throughout California whose staff screen HIV-positive clients for inclusion into the program. In fiscal year 2004-05 approximately 600 clients were enrolled. CARE/HIPP has served over 3,000 clients since 1990 and paid over \$8.9 million in health insurance payments. Research has shown that for every dollar of CARE/HIPP money spent, California's Medi-Cal and AIDS Drug Assistance Program saves approximately eight dollars.

Helpful resources:

- For more information on OA's mission, OA programs, and other helpful resources, see Website <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/AIDS>.
- For information about HIV/AIDS, call the:
 - *California AIDS Hotline* at (800) 367-AIDS (English/Spanish/Filipino) or (888) 225-AIDS (TDD) or see Website <http://www.AIDShotline.org>.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How do I find a CARE/HIPP enrollment site? To locate an enrollment site in your area, contact OA at (916) 449-5900.

How long can a client remain on CARE/HIPP? Clients are eligible for a maximum of 29 months of coverage and must apply for State Disability Insurance, Social Security Disability Insurance, or private disability.

